CLAIMS:

1. A communications device comprising:

    a memory adapted to store at least one profile of a user of the device, wherein the said at least one profile contains predetermined attributes and requirements of the user;

    a transceiver adapted to transmit information relating to the said requirements to a compatible device and receive information relating to requirements of the said compatible device;

    a controller adapted to register a match between the said device and the said compatible device, only when the said attributes match the said requirements of the said compatible device; and

    a user alert adapted to alert a user when the controller has established that a match has been made;

    wherein the said device does not need to receive information relating to attributes of the said compatible device, in order to register a match with the said compatible device.

2.   A communications device according to Claim 1, wherein the user alert is further adapted to alert the user only when the controller has established that a match has been made and that a match signal has been received from the compatible device, said match signal indicating that the compatible device has registered a corresponding match.

3.   A communications device according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the device further comprises a display.

4.   A communications device according to Claim 3, wherein the display is adapted to display an indication of the or each profile stored in the device.

5.   A communications device according to Claim 4, wherein the device is further adapted to allow the user to designate which of the stored at least one profiles the user designates as active; the said memory is further adapted to store an indication of the

64.   A communications device according to any of Claims 61 to 63, wherein the device is adapted to populate the attributes of the said asymmetric profile by referencing an external database, the said external database being stored on any of a LAN, a WAN, personal computer, workstation, server, terminal or the Internet.

65.   A communications device according to Claim 64, wherein the device is adapted to store the results of the reference to the external database after a match has been established, if the user of the compatible device becomes out of range before the user of the device is be alerted to the match; and alert the user to the match if the user of the compatible device becomes in range again within a predetermined time period, without referring to the external database again.

66.   A communications device according to Claim 51 or any claim dependent on Claim 51, wherein the device is adapted to upload the or each said profile to a central database, said central database being adapted to store location information relating to the users; and match users based on the attributes and requirements of the or each said profile and the location information relating to the users.

67.   A communications device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

68.   A communications method comprising the steps of:
        storing at least one profile of a user in a memory of a communications device, wherein the or each said profile contains predetermined attributes and requirements of the user;
        using a transceiver of the device to transmit information relating to the said requirements to a compatible device and receive information relating to requirements of the said compatible device;
        using a controller to register a match between the said device and the said compatible device, only when the said attributes match the said requirements of the said compatible device; and
        using a user alert to alert a user when the controller has established that a match has been made;

wherein the said device does not need to receive information relating to attributes of the said compatible device, in order to register a match with the said compatible device.

69.   A communications method according to Claim 68, wherein the user is alerted only when a match has been registered and a match signal has been received from the compatible device, the said match signal indicating that the compatible device has registered a corresponding match.

70.   A communications method according to Claim 68 or 69, further comprising the step of using a display to display an indication of the profiles stored in the device.

71.   A communications method according to Claim 70, further comprising the steps of allowing the user to designate which of the stored at least one profiles are designated as active; storing an indication of the active profile or profiles in the memory; and exchanging information with a compatible device based only on the active profile or profiles.

72.   A communications method according to Claim 71, further comprising the step of using a keypad to activate a profile from those stored in the device.

73.   A communications method according to Claim 72, further comprising the step of using the display to display an indication of the active profile or profiles.

74.   A communications method according to any of claims 68 to 73, wherein the memory comprises a combination of volatile and non-volatile memory.

75.   A communications method according to any of claims 68 to 74, further comprising the step of using the user alert to provide a visual indication to the user.

76.   A communications method according to Claim 75 when dependent on Claim 70, further comprising the step of providing the visual indication using the display.

**REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT**